

calculation of Alnaschar on his basket of earthenware, which was so soon to obtain him the Sultan's daughter.\*

Where imagination is not delusive enough to embody future casualties as effective means, it may yet represent very inadequate means as competent. In a well-balanced mind, no conception will grow into a favourite purpose, unaccompanied by a process of the judgment, deciding its practicability by an estimate of the means ; in a mind under the ascendancy of imagination this is a subordinate after-task. By the time that this comes to be considered, the projector is too much enamoured of an end that is deemed to be great, to abandon it because the means are suspected to be little. But then they must cease to *appear* little; for there must be an apparent proportion between the means and the end. Well, trust the whole concern to the plastic faculty, and presently every insignificant particle of instrumentality, and every petty contrivance for its management, will swell into magnitude; pigmies and Lilliputians with their tiny arrows will soon grow up into giants wielding spears ; and the diffident consciousness which was at first somewhat afraid to measure the plan, as to its means of execution, against the object, will give place to a generous scorn of the timidity of doubting. The mind will most ingeniously place the apparatus between its eye and the object at a distance, and be deluded by the false position which makes the one look as large as the other.

The consideration of the deceptive calculations on the effect of insufficient means, would lead to a wide variety of particulars ; I will only touch slightly on a few. Various projects of a *benevolent* order would come under this charge. Did you ever listen to the discussion of plans for the civilization of barbarous nations without the intervention of conquest ? I have, with the most sceptical kind of interest ! That very many millions of the species should form only a brutal adjunct to civilized and enlightened man is a disastrous thing, notwithstanding the whimsical attempts of some ingenious men to represent the state of roving savages as preferable

\* See "The Story of the Barber's Fifth Brother" in the « Arabian Nights."

t I here pkece out of view that religion by which Omnipotence will at length transform the world.